



# Comstock Connect Township Newsletter

Charter Township of Comstock, Kalamazoo Michigan

*A Community with Opportunity*

# May 2022

## Township Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday  
8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Friday  
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## Township Board

Supervisor  
Randy Thompson

Clerk  
Nicole Beauchamp

Treasurer  
Bret Padgett

Trustees  
Jerry Amos  
Terry Melver  
Jason Knight  
Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

## Transfer Station

April 1-October 31

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Saturday  
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

The Township Hall will be closed on Monday, May 30th in honor of Memorial Day.

## Elections- May 3rd and Looking Forward

### What to know for the 3rd

#### **Where should I go to vote?**

We have a precinct map online. It can be found at <https://comstockmi.gov/election>.

#### **What is on the ballot for tomorrow?**

Every precinct is being asked to vote on a Law Enforcement Millage. For more information on what's on your ballot, see sample ballots online. They can be found at <https://comstockmi.gov/election/> under the Election Dates for 2022 section.

#### **When can I vote**

The polls open at 7am and close at 8pm at each precinct. Voters can also vote via Absent Voter ballot as soon as they are available up until 4:00 p.m. the Monday Before

#### **When will sample ballots be available for upcoming elections?**

Sample ballots are available now for the May election. For all elections, voters can visit our website at: <https://comstockmi.gov/election> and under "Election Dates", can click on the "Election Sample Ballots" under that particular election. They are also available on election day at the precincts.

#### **How do I become an Election Inspector for upcoming elections?**

You can find the Election Inspector application on our website at <https://comstockmi.gov/elections>, the application is found under "Election Inspector" towards the bottom of the page. Or you can email the Clerk at [clerk@comstockmi.gov](mailto:clerk@comstockmi.gov) to ask for an application.

#### **What's expected from Election Inspectors?**

After Election Inspectors are appointed by the Local Election Commission, they are required to attend a certification training (or re-certification every 2 years). They are expected to arrive at the polling location at 6am and be there until the closing procedures are completed after the polls close at 8pm on election day. Those working the Absent Voter Counting Board start a little later, the time is dependent on the election, but they are still required to be there until after polls close at 8pm on election day.

#### **When's the deadline to apply to become a Election Inspector for upcoming elections this year.**

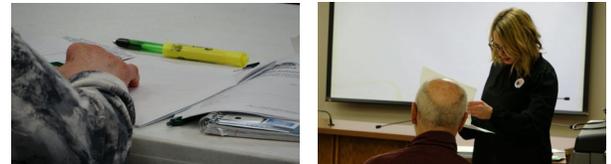
Ideally we have applications in no later than six weeks before an election.

### **Gearing up for your vote!**

Before May 3rd's election, we spent a lot of time making sure our volunteers were trained and our tabulators were reporting accurately.

### **A Look in Pictures:**

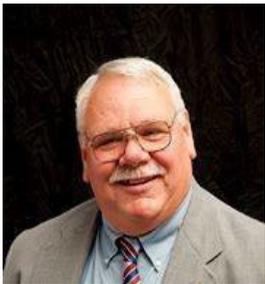
Our election inspectors for May 3rd began training the week of April 18th. Here we see them listening to a presentation by Comstock Township Election Specialist Nicole Shook and Comstock Township Clerk Nicole Beauchamp.





## Township Reports

Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor  
(269) 381-2360  
[supervisor@comstockmi.gov](mailto:supervisor@comstockmi.gov)



On May 3rd, we have the first of three elections for this year. It is an incredible honor we have to decide the future we have in this great country. I'm asking everyone to take a moment to look over the issues we have facing us tomorrow and take time to come to the polls. Participation in this process makes the Township community stronger.

I would like to thank our wonderful Election Commission and volunteers for their hard work and their dedication to an open and fair election. Please take time to vote.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk  
(269) 381-2360  
[clerk@comstockmi.gov](mailto:clerk@comstockmi.gov)



We're gearing up for the May 3rd Special Election. Absent Voter (AV) ballots have been mailed to those who have returned a signed application for this election. If you're interested in voting absentee, you can submit an application online or via mail to be received by Friday, April 29th at 5:00pm and in-person until 4:00pm on Monday, May 2nd. A voter who requests a ballot in-person after April 29th must vote the ballot in the office.

The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, April 30th from 8:00am-4:00pm if you need to handle last minute voter registration and absent voter applications. Visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote) for more information on registering to vote, upcoming elections or tracking your ballot.

Bret Padgett, Township  
Treasurer (269) 381-2360  
[BPadgett@comstockmi.gov](mailto:BPadgett@comstockmi.gov)



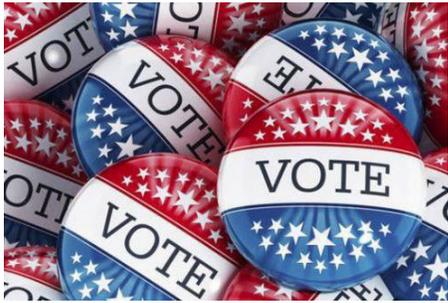
If you have purchased, sold, or otherwise transferred property this year, please take this time to verify that your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) is correct. A PRE is an exemption from school operating tax that can be claimed on a homeowner's primary residence. The deadline for submitting a summer PRE is June 1st. For full PRE guidelines from the State of Michigan, check out [Michigan.gov/taxes](https://Michigan.gov/taxes) or click here: [PRE Guidelines](#).

With less than two months until summer property tax bills are mailed, this is also a great time to verify that we have your correct mailing address on file at the Township. To check it out, hit the "Tax & Assessing Info" button on our website, or click here: [BS&A Online](#).

Special assessment notices have been mailed and payments are due by August 1st, 2022. As a reminder, any special assessment amounts not paid by November 1st, 2022, will be added to the winter tax bill.



## Announcements



### Help needed for future elections

As we approach the August Primary Election and November Midterms, we are looking for Election Inspectors. If you are interested in involved in helping our elections run smoothly, find the application online: <https://comstockmi.gov/elections> or email the Township Clerk: [clerk@comstockmi.gov](mailto:clerk@comstockmi.gov)

## Meetings

### Township Board

The Township Board normally meets the first and third Monday of each Month. Due to the election, May meetings are May 9th and May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m.

### Planning commission

The Planning Commission is meeting on May 12th and May 26th at 7 p.m.

### Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation board is meeting on May 9th at 6 p.m. at Fire Station 9-1

### Zoning Board

The Zoning Board is meeting on May 24th at 4 p.m.

### Downtown Development Board

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting May 25th at 5 p.m.



## Welcome to Comstock!

## We are excited to have Kalsee Credit Union join us in Comstock Township

Comstock Charter Township staff and elected officials were happy to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for Kalsee Credit Union on Gull road on April 11th. You can see them in the pictures below.

We're also happy to have helped the credit union become established for with help from a \$360,000 Brown field Development Grant. In the pictures below you can see Comstock Charter Township Supervisor Randy Thompson, Superintendent Scott Hess and Treasurer Bret Padgett participating in the Ceremony.

Matt Lahmen, C.E.O. of Kalsee Credit Union, says they expect the branch to be open by the end of November.





# Comstock Fire & Rescue

## Open Burn Permits

Open Burning Permits are required for any type of outdoor burning that is not contained in an approved container or barrel.

An Open Burn Permit is NOT required for the following:

- Burning in an approved burn barrel or waste burner
- Recreational fire (as defined under Recreational Fires)

**Applying for Open Burn Permits:** Permits may be obtained by utilizing the Comstock Township Burn Permit Application System (BurnPAS™) by visiting our website at [www.comstockfire.com](http://www.comstockfire.com) (click on the Burn Permits tab at the top), or alternatively you may call or stop in to any of our fire stations. Permits are only valid for the day the permit is issued. A new permit must be requested for each day that you wish to burn.

Permits are based on several requirements including favorable weather conditions and lot size. You will need to acknowledge the burning ordinance before a permit is issued. If your property address does not meet the lot size requirements according to the ordinance your permit will be denied. As a reminder you can only burn from sunrise to sunset and burning is restricted to leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps, and lumber. Burning garbage, paper products, building material other than lumber, plastic, rubber products and grass clippings are specifically prohibited. The Transfer Station is free to take leaves for township residents.

**Recreational Fires:** Recreational fires do not require a burn permit as long as the fire is contained in a fire or barbecue pit:

- Not to exceed three feet in diameter and not to exceed two feet in height.
- All recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from any building, property line or other combustible material.
- Waste matter which causes a dense smoke or odor to go onto adjacent property may not be burned, under permit or otherwise.

**Burning Barrels and Waste Burners:** No burn permit is required for burning in a burn barrel or waste burner if it complies with the following rules:

- Burning barrels and waste burners are to be constructed of a non-combustible metal or masonry container, not to exceed a capacity of 55 gallons.
- Containers must be in good condition with holes or openings on the sides not to exceed ½ square inch. All containers must have a cover or spark arrester on top with holes no larger than ½ square inch.
- Burning barrels and waste burners must be kept as least 15 feet from any building, public roadway, property line or other combustible materials.
- Only paper products, leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps or lumber may be burned in these containers.
- Burning of grass clippings, garbage, building materials other than lumber, plastic and rubber products are specifically prohibited.

In addition, the Fire Chief and/or his/her authorized representative may require the fire to be discontinued if he/she determines that the smoke from the fire is reasonably offensive to persons on surrounding property or that the fire constitutes a hazardous condition.



### Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Library Contact  
269-345-0136

[Info@comstocklibrary.org](mailto:Info@comstocklibrary.org)  
[www.comstocklibrary.org](http://www.comstocklibrary.org)

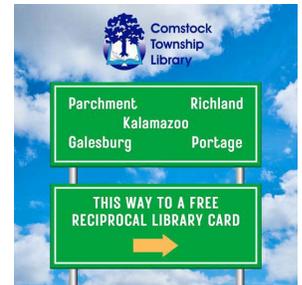
### Community Shred Day

Saturday, May 14, 2022 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

It might be time to see if you have anything in your house that might need to be shredded. Comstock Library will be allowing Comstock Township residents to shred up to 5 boxes of material next month. They can shred paper items, such as copy paper, envelopes, and file folders. They can't shred CD's, hard drives, or hard sided binders. Call the library for questions you have.

### Who can get a card? You can!

Anyone who lives, works, or owns properties in Comstock can get a library card. Residents of neighboring communities may also qualify for a library card. Contact the library for more information.




**FREE GIFT!**

**NOW AVAILABLE**

Comstock Township Library will be giving out goodie bags to all new cardholders!

They will receive: a reusable tote (big enough for an armful of books!), a CTL notepad and pen (with stylus), and a coupon for a free book from the Book Sale room!

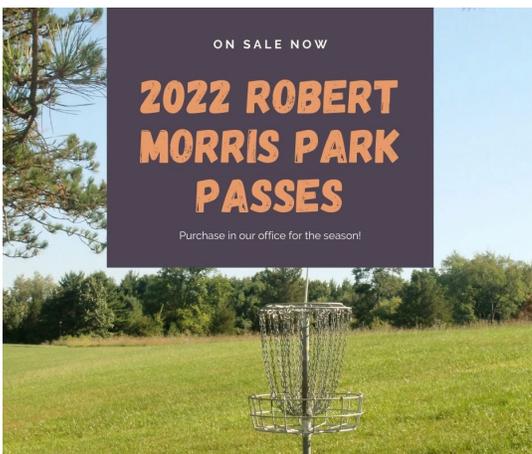
## services

- WE ARE FINE-FREE!
- COMPUTERS
- PRINTING
- MOBILE PRINTING
- COPYING
- FAXING - FREE
- WIFI
- NOTARY
- BOOK SALE ROOM
- WEEKLY STORY TIMES
- HOTSPOT RENTALS
- HOMEBOUND SERVICES
- VHS TO DVD CONVERSION
- MEETING ROOM
- LOCAL HISTORY ROOM
- YOUTH DEPT
  - + INFANTS/CHILDREN
  - + TEEN/YOUNG ADULT
- TAKE-HOME PROGRAMS
- EXAM PROCTORING



## Comstock Parks

**We're hiring:** The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for part-time Seasonal Parks Attendants. Duties include collecting entrance fees, working at concession stands, helping visitors as needed and maintaining the parks. To apply, go to the employment tab under resources on our [website](#).



We have pavilions available to rent at Robert Morris Park and Merrill Park. To reserve a pavilion, go to the Parks and Recreation tab under Departments on our website. Season passes for Robert Morris park are available at the township hall. Passes are \$20 or \$10 for seniors (60+). Day passes are \$5.





Charter Township of  
**Comstock**

## Follow us on Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/comstocktwp>

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ComstockCTwp>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/comstock-charter-township/>

